



# State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

## \*\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\*\*

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### WKCE 2004-05 overall results hold steady

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster reported that fourth-grade results were stable and performance at eighth and 10th grades was up across most subjects on the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations (WKCE) administered in November of 2004.

“We are testing more students who increasingly come from economically disadvantaged families, yet our WKCE scores are holding steady or improving. This is a testament to the focus and dedication of our schools, teachers, and parents on providing quality instruction that helps our students learn,” Burmaster said.

Among eighth- and 10th-graders, those scoring proficient and advanced in reading were up 6 and 5 percentage points respectively from 2004. Tenth-grade students scoring proficient or advanced in math was up 3 percentage points; eighth grade jumped 8 percentage points in math from the previous year. Reading and math results for African-American and Hispanic students in grades eight and 10 also were up and showed a slight closing of the achievement gap. The percentage of African-American and Hispanic fourth-graders scoring proficient and advanced was down for most subjects from last year to a level that is about the same as two years ago. Scores in other subjects across all grades were stable.

#### WKCE/WAA Performance

Percent of Total Students Enrolled  
Scoring Proficient and Advanced

4th Grade	02-03*	03-04	04-05
Reading	80	82	82
Language Arts	78	79	79
Mathematics	71	74	72
Science	77	80	78
Social Studies	90	90	91
8th Grade	02-03*	03-04	04-05
Reading	83	79	85
Language Arts	62	67	65
Mathematics	73	65	73
Science	74	69	73
Social Studies	81	84	83
10th Grade	02-03*	03-04	04-05
Reading	71	69	74
Language Arts	70	67	69
Mathematics	69	69	72
Science	69	70	70
Social Studies	72	73	73

\* 2002-03 proficiency data do not include Wisconsin Alternate Assessment (WAA) results.

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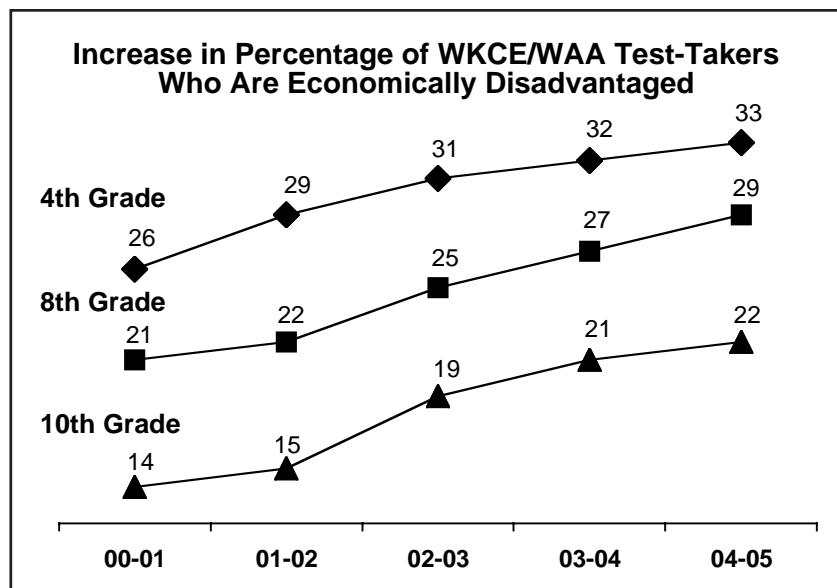
"I am pleased by reading and math achievement gains in grades eight and 10 and by the overall stability of test scores," Burmaster said. "While we should celebrate our successes, we have much work to do to close the achievement gap between children of color, economically disadvantaged students, and their peers," she added.

Approximately 197,000 students in grades four, eight, and 10 took statewide tests in reading, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. This was the third year of fall testing of multiple-choice and short answer tests in the five WKCE subjects, and the third year for administration of Wisconsin Alternate Assessments for Students with Disabilities and Limited-English-Proficient students. Participation in statewide testing was 100 percent for all students at grade 4, and 99 percent of all enrolled students at grades eight and 10. Last year's participation rates for all students ranged from 98 percent to 100 percent.

"School districts are working hard to ensure that virtually all students have the opportunity to participate in statewide assessments," Burmaster said. "While large scale assessments like the WKCE have limitations, statewide testing can provide information that guides improvements to academic instruction so it's important that we make every effort to include all of our students."

In addition to testing higher percentages of students, public schools—reflecting the socio-economic condition of the state—are

testing an increasing percentage of children who come from economically disadvantaged families. At fourth grade, 33 percent of tested students qualified for free or reduced-price school lunch for the 2004-05 school year; 29 percent of eighth-graders and 22 percent of 10th-grade test-takers were from economically disadvantaged families. As it is for children of color, the achievement gap between economically



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disadvantaged students and their peers is quite apparent at all grade levels. For example, in reading the gap in the percentage of students scoring proficient and advanced between economically disadvantaged students and their non-disadvantaged peers is 20 percentage points at grade four, 24 percentage points at grade eight, and 25 percentage points at grade 10.

“Poverty presents a complex challenge in education,” Burmaster stated. “We must work to ensure that all students, regardless of economic status, achieve academically. However, children from economically disadvantaged families many times do not have the same opportunities that help them learn such as high-quality preschool. That is why investment in 4-year-old kindergarten (4K) and smaller class sizes in early grades, strategies that are proven to work, is so important. Recent research shows that providing students with a positive start at the beginning of their schooling has long term implications for academic achievement, graduation from high school, and future employability, especially for economically disadvantaged children.”

Burmaster stressed the importance of prioritizing education. “We know what works to improve student achievement: early learning opportunities, including 4K and the Student Achievement Guarantee in Education (SAGE) class-size reduction program; quality educators in every school; and parental and community involvement that supports students’ education,” she said.

Burmaster cautioned that test scores commonly fluctuate from year to year and are best examined over time. “Judging a grade-level, school, or school district solely on the basis of statewide assessments is unfair to our students and schools,” Burmaster stressed. “Student achievement covers a broad range of accomplishments that include the demonstration of academic learning through day-to-day class work, special projects, performances, and the technical and visual arts as well as participation in leadership, service-learning, and civic activities. Our students and their schools achieve in many areas, not just on a set of tests.”

Next fall as required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act, students in grades three through eight and grade 10 will be tested in mathematics and reading. The WKCE at four, eight, and 10 will continue to include tests in language arts, science, and social studies in addition to the reading and math components.

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**NOTE:** Tables with additional information about statewide performance on Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations for the 2004-05 school year follow. Data on school and district-level performance are available from local school districts and on the Department of Public Instruction website at < <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/sig/index.html> >. Click on “Data Analysis.”

## WKCE/WAA Performance by Racial/Ethnic Group

Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced

	All Students			American Indian			Asian			Black			Hispanic			White		
	02-03*	03-04	04-05	02-03*	03-04	04-05	02-03*	03-04	04-05	02-03*	03-04	04-05	02-03*	03-04	04-05	02-03*	03-04	04-05
<b>4th Grade</b>																		
Reading	80	82	82	69	73	76	69	74	74	61	63	60	62	68	65	86	87	87
Language Arts	78	79	79	63	70	71	67	73	72	54	60	56	57	65	64	83	85	85
Mathematics	71	74	72	54	62	59	66	72	73	41	46	41	51	58	56	76	81	79
Science	77	80	78	66	74	69	59	71	65	42	50	41	51	64	54	84	88	86
Social Studies	90	90	91	86	84	89	85	87	86	72	72	74	76	79	83	95	95	95
Percent Not Tested**	1-3	0	0	1-2	0-1	1	0-4	0-1	0	1-4	1	0-1	1-11	1	0-1	0-2	0	0
Enrollment	62,390	61,581	59,867	949	899	838	2,263	2,130	2,143	7,120	7,248	6,706	3,643	3,914	4,299	48,218	47,235	45,865
	All Students			American Indian			Asian			Black			Hispanic			White		
	02-03*	03-04	04-05	02-03*	03-04	04-05	02-03*	03-04	04-05	02-03*	03-04	04-05	02-03*	03-04	04-05	02-03*	03-04	04-05
<b>8th Grade</b>																		
Reading	83	79	85	73	69	76	69	62	74	54	50	56	60	59	65	89	85	89
Language Arts	62	67	65	41	52	46	48	56	51	29	37	32	36	45	40	70	74	71
Mathematics	73	65	73	56	46	55	68	57	68	30	25	32	46	42	53	81	73	81
Science	74	69	73	57	52	57	55	48	54	29	26	30	44	41	48	82	78	82
Social Studies	81	84	83	69	71	70	72	74	75	44	50	49	56	66	66	88	90	89
Percent Not Tested**	1-3	1	1	1-3	1-2	1-2	1-4	1	1-2	4-10	2-4	2-3	4-11	1-2	1-5	0-1	0	0
Enrollment	67,527	68,409	68,061	1,023	1,024	1,053	2,278	2,332	2,411	6,684	7,014	6,945	3,139	3,429	3,739	54,190	54,393	53,895
	All Students			American Indian			Asian			Black			Hispanic			White		
	02-03*	03-04	04-05	02-03*	03-04	04-05	02-03*	03-04	04-05	02-03*	03-04	04-05	02-03*	03-04	04-05	02-03*	03-04	04-05
<b>10th Grade</b>																		
Reading	71	69	74	58	54	58	55	53	60	36	32	43	45	44	51	78	76	80
Language Arts	70	67	69	51	46	48	52	51	52	34	30	39	42	42	45	76	73	76
Mathematics	69	69	72	48	50	50	54	59	60	23	24	28	38	41	44	76	76	78
Science	69	70	70	50	51	50	50	54	53	21	26	27	37	42	44	77	77	78
Social Studies	72	73	73	53	59	56	58	63	61	31	31	38	44	48	50	78	80	80
Percent Not Tested**	4	2	1	8-9	4	3-4	4-5	2	1-2	15-17	8-10	4-6	10-12	4-5	3-7	2	1	1
Enrollment	71,678	70,543	71,231	1,000	998	1,034	2,164	2,285	2,369	5,912	5,851	6,130	2,848	3,115	3,301	59,422	58,010	58,363

\* 2002-03 proficiency data do not include Wisconsin Alternate Assessment (WAA) results.

\*\* The percent not tested is a range of those students not tested on each of the academic areas of the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations (WKCE) at grades 4, 8, and 10.

**2004-05 Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations and  
Wisconsin Alternate Assessments**

<b>4th Grade</b>	Total Enrollment	% Not Tested*	Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced				
			Reading	Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
Limited English Proficient	3,503	1	59	55	56	47	75
English Proficient	56,364	0	84	81	74	80	92
Students with Disabilities	8,222	1	53	48	49	56	78
Nondisabled	51,645	0	86	84	76	82	93
Economically Disadvantaged	19,961	0-1	68	66	55	59	84
Not Economically Disadvantaged	39,906	0	88	87	80	87	95
Not in District Full Academic Year	5,675	1	73	70	62	67	84
In District Full Academic Year	54,192	0	83	80	74	78	91
<b>8th Grade</b>	Total Enrollment	% Not Tested*	Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced				
			Reading	Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
Limited English Proficient	2,463	1-9	50	26	49	34	56
English Proficient	65,598	1	86	67	75	75	84
Students with Disabilities	9,841	2	50	24	34	39	51
Nondisabled	58,220	0-1	91	71	80	80	88
Economically Disadvantaged	19,426	1-2	67	42	51	50	66
Not Economically Disadvantaged	48,635	0	91	74	82	83	90
Not in District Full Academic Year	5,014	2-3	73	51	59	60	72
In District Full Academic Year	63,047	1	85	66	75	74	84
<b>10th Grade</b>	Total Enrollment	% Not Tested*	Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced				
			Reading	Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
Limited English Proficient	1,937	2-11	30	23	35	29	34
English Proficient	69,294	1	75	71	73	71	75
Students with Disabilities	9,485	3	36	28	30	35	37
Nondisabled	61,746	1	81	77	78	76	80
Economically Disadvantaged	15,930	3	55	48	47	46	51
Not Economically Disadvantaged	55,301	1	80	77	78	78	81
Not in District Full Academic Year	4,713	4-5	61	55	54	54	58
In District Full Academic Year	66,518	1	75	71	73	71	75

\* The percent not tested is a range of those students not tested on each of the academic areas of the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations (WKCE) at grades 4, 8, and 10.

## 2004-05 Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations and Wisconsin Alternate Assessments

Percent of Total Enrolled Students (As a result of rounding percents may not total 100%.)

				WKCE Proficiency Categories			
<b>4th Grade</b>	Not Tested WSAS	Tested with WAA for Students with Disabilities*	Tested with WAA for LEP Students**	Minimal	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Reading	0	2	1	4	12	39	42
Language Arts	0	2	1	4	14	43	35
Mathematics	0	1	1	16	10	40	31
Science	0	1	1	5	16	57	21
Social Studies	0	1	1	2	5	28	63
<b>WKCE Proficiency Categories</b>							
<b>8th Grade</b>	Not Tested WSAS	Tested with WAA for Students with Disabilities*	Tested with WAA for LEP Students**	Minimal	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Reading	1	1	0	6	8	43	41
Language Arts	1	1	0	12	22	39	25
Mathematics	1	1	1	11	14	48	24
Science	1	1	1	9	15	46	27
Social Studies	1	1	1	4	11	39	44
<b>WKCE Proficiency Categories</b>							
<b>10th Grade</b>	Not Tested WSAS	Tested with WAA for Students with Disabilities*	Tested with WAA for LEP Students**	Minimal	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Reading	1	1	0	9	14	19	55
Language Arts	1	1	0	9	19	51	18
Mathematics	1	1	1	14	12	46	25
Science	1	1	1	16	10	35	35
Social Studies	1	1	1	16	7	30	43

\* Wisconsin Alternate Assessment (WAA) for Students with Disabilities is a custom test administered for the first time in 2002-03.

\*\* Wisconsin Alternate Assessment (WAA) for Limited English Proficient students is a custom test for students who are English-Language Learners at Level 1 or 2 and was administered for the first time in 2002-03.

### WKCE Proficiency Categories

**Advanced** Students demonstrate in-depth understanding of the academic knowledge and skills tested.

**Proficient** Students demonstrate competency in the academic knowledge and skills tested.

**Basic** Students demonstrate some academic knowledge and skills tested.

**Minimal** Demonstrates very limited academic knowledge and skills tested.